

C (a) a base and a staff which are slidably connected to one another such that the base and staff can be extended between an extended position and a collapsed position by sliding the base and staff relative to one another, wherein the base and staff are non-rotatably connected to one another such that the base and staff can be slid relative to one another but cannot be rotated relative to one another, wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the extended position to properly position the tennis net for singles play when the singles stick is installed between the top edge of the net and the ground, and wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the collapsed position which is shorter than the combined length of the base and staff in the extended position; and

(b) a lock for releasably fixing the base and staff together in both the extended and collapsed positions of the base and staff without rotating the base and staff relative to one another, wherein the lock when engaged in the extended position of the base and staff preventing the base and staff from collapsing relative to one another during use of the singles stick and when engaged in the collapsed position of the base and staff preventing the base and staff from extending relative to one another when the singles stick is not in use.

Cancel claim 5 without prejudice.

Rewrite claim 6 as follows:

C Sub 201 6. (Once Amended) The singles stick of claim 1, wherein the lock comprises a locking pin that may be inserted through various ones of spaced holes.

Rewrite claim 11 as follows:

Sub  
DL 11. (Twice Amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, , which comprises:

(a) a plurality of telescopically received sections including at least one first, hollow section into which a second section is telescopically received such that the first and second sections can be extended between an extended orientation and a collapsed orientation by telescoping the first and second sections relative to one another;

3  
C (b) a lock for releasably holding the telescopic sections together in at least the extended position, wherein the lock is responsive to movement of the telescopic sections with the lock being biased to automatically move into a locking engagement with the telescopic sections whenever the telescopic sections are placed in their extended position; and

(c) wherein the combined length of the telescopic sections in the locked extended position thereof is sufficiently long to permit the telescopic sections to be wedged between a top support cord or cable of a tennis net with the telescopic sections being held in place solely by downward force from the top support cord or cable forcing the telescopic sections into engagement with the ground, and wherein the telescopic sections can be wedged between the top support cord or cable and the ground at a location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of a tennis court and when so wedged the combined length of the telescopic sections will raise the top support cord or cable of the tennis net by an amount required to provide a height that conforms to singles play rules.

Rewrite claim 20 as follows:

Sub  
D5  
20. (Once Amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, , which comprises:

C4  
(a) a base and a staff which are slidably and telescopically connected to one another such that the base and staff can be extended between an extended position and a collapsed position by sliding the base and staff relative to one another, wherein the base and staff have mating non-circular cross-sectional configurations to prevent the base and staff from rotating relative to one another;

(b) a lock for releasably holding the base and staff together in both the extended and collapsed positions, the lock comprising first and second vertically spaced holes which receive a locking pin with the locking pin releasably holding the base and staff together in the extended and collapsed positions thereof depending upon which of the first and second vertically spaced holes receives the locking pin; and

(c) wherein the combined length of the base and staff in the locked extended position thereof is sufficiently long to permit the base and staff to be wedged between a top support cord or cable of a tennis net with the base and staff being held in place solely by downward force from the top support cord or cable forcing the base and staff into engagement with the ground, and wherein the base and staff can be wedged between the top support cord or cable and the ground at a location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of a tennis court and when so wedged the combined length of the base and staff will raise the top support cord or cable of the tennis net by an amount required to provide a height that conforms to singles play rules.

Add the following new claims 21-24.<sup>26</sup>

21. (New) The singles stick of claim 20, wherein the locking pin is manually insertable by the user into the first and second vertically spaced holes.

CS 22. (New) The singles stick of claim 21, wherein the first and second vertically spaced holes are each provided as part of a set of two holes with the locking pin extending between and being received in both holes in the set of holes.

23. (New) The singles stick of claim 20, wherein the locking pin is biased into engagement with the first and second vertically spaced holes such that the locking pin automatically enters one of the vertically spaced holes whenever the base and staff are placed in their extended and collapsed positions.

24. (New) The singles stick of claim 23, wherein the locking pin is carried on a spring finger.

25. (New) The singles stick of claim 24, wherein the spring finger comprises a flexible piece of spring steel.

26. (New) The singles stick of claim 23, wherein the locking pin is carried on a flexible metallic piece which flexible metallic piece is configured to bias the locking pin.

Remarks